

deficient, or should an overpayment be included herein, the Assistant Commissioner is authorized to appropriately deduct or credit the requisite amount from VINSON & ELKINS L.L.P. Deposit Account No. 22-0365/MAN466/4-001US.

AMENDMENT

Please cancel claims 1-25 without prejudice.

Please add claims 26-45 as follows:

26. A computer-executable system that selectively operates any of a plurality of independently-executable applications, the system comprising:

(a) a user interface that transmits an instruction set having a plurality of instructions for selection by a user and receives at least one selected instruction based upon said instruction set, said at least one selected instruction designating a target application from a plurality of independently-executable computer applications;

wherein the user interface further comprises a topic selection interface, and

wherein the topic selection interface is displayed only when commands are executed via the user interface;

(b) a data retrieval interface that retrieves a plurality of data from a computer memory, said plurality of data based upon said at least one selected instruction;

(c) a data interpreter that receives said data and said at least one selected instruction, said data interpreter translates said data into a plurality of actions with respect to said target application and said data; and

(d) a target application interface that receives at least some of said plurality of actions and that selectively issues some of said plurality of actions for externally operating the

target application and that relays feedback from the target application back through the data interpreter to the user interface.

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27. The computer-executable system of claim 26, wherein the target application interface selectively takes control of the target application based upon user input.

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28. The computer-executable system of claim 26, wherein the target application interface takes control of the target application based upon said at least some of said plurality of actions and completely releases control of the target application based upon completion of some said plurality of actions.

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29. The computer-executable system of claim 26, wherein the target application interface takes control of the target application based upon user input and completely releases control of the target application upon completion of said at least some of said plurality of actions.

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30. The computer-executable system of claim 26, wherein the data comprises video data.

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31. A computer-executable system that selectively operates any of a plurality of independently-executable applications, the system comprising:

(a) a user interface that transmits an instruction set having a plurality of instructions for selection by a user and receives at least one selected instruction based upon said instruction set, said at least one selected instruction designating a target application from a plurality of independently-executable computer applications;

(b) a data retrieval interface that retrieves a plurality of data from a computer memory, said plurality of data based upon said at least one selected instruction;

wherein the data retrieval interface comprises a network interface for accessing said plurality of data from a device coupled to a network;

(c) a data interpreter that receives said data and said at least one selected instruction, said data interpreter translates said data into a plurality of actions with respect to said target application and said data; and

(d) a target application interface that receives at least some of said plurality of actions and that selectively issues some of said plurality of actions for externally operating the target application and that relays feedback from the target application back through the data interpreter to the user interface.

32. The computer-executable system of claim 31, wherein the user interface further comprises a control bar, and wherein the user interface is displayed only when commands are executed via the control bar.

33. The computer-executable system of claim 31, wherein the user interface further comprises a topic selection interface, and wherein the topic selection interface is displayed only when commands are executed via the user interface.

34. The computer-executable system of claim 31, wherein the data comprises video data.

35. The computer-executable system of claim 31, wherein the network interface comprises a local area network interface.

36. The computer-executable system of claim 31, wherein the network interface comprises an Internet interface.

37. The computer-executable system of claim 31, wherein the network interface comprises a wireless interface.

38. The computer-executable system of claim 31, wherein the target application interface selectively takes control of the target application based upon user input.

51.

39. A computer-executable system that selectively operates one or more peripheral devices, the system comprising:

(a) a user interface that transmits an instruction set having a plurality of instructions for selection by a user and receives at least one selected instruction based upon said instruction set, said at least one selected instruction designating a target peripheral device;

(b) a data retrieval interface that retrieves a plurality of data from a computer memory, said plurality of data based upon said at least one selected instruction;

wherein the data retrieval interface comprises a network interface for accessing said plurality of data from a device coupled to a network;

c1 (c) a data interpreter that receives said data and said at least one selected instruction, said data interpreter translates said data into a plurality of actions with respect to said target peripheral device and said data; and

(d) a peripheral interface that receives at least some of said plurality of actions and selectively issues some of the actions for operating a peripheral device having an embedded instruction set and a communications port and that relays feedback from the peripheral device back through the data interpreter to the user interface.

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40. The computer-executable system of claim 39, wherein the user interface further comprises a control bar, and wherein the user interface is displayed only when commands are executed via the control bar.

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41. The computer-executable system of claim 39, wherein the user interface further comprises a topic selection interface, and wherein the topic selection interface is displayed only when commands are executed via the user interface.